

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 115

SUBJECT: Adam and Fallen Man – May 6th, 2018

Renewed in The Spirit of Your Mind

“Put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.” (Ephesians)

When I first came to Plainfield, I remember being overwhelmed with all the negative thoughts that would stream through my head, unchecked. I felt there was no way to control these thoughts. I felt these thoughts were “me” and I was a victim. Day by day, here, I began to learn God gave me dominion over all things and this type of thinking was not from Him.

In II Corinthians we read, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” This gave me great hope and I began this process, with the mighty power of God, to cast out ungodlike thinking and to replace error’s lies with all that is good and true.

This experience is truly to be “renewed in the spirit of your mind.” The process, of course, is an ongoing one, one to be mindful of each and every day – but I will be eternally grateful for Christian Science and for this Church whose clear teachings have helped me immeasurably in learning how to leave behind the old man for the new.*****

Poor Counterfeits

Science and Health, p 337 The visible universe and material man are the poor counterfeits of the invisible universe and spiritual man.

Counterfeit: To forge; to copy or imitate, without authority or right, and with a view to deceive or defraud, by passing the copy or thing forged, for that which is original or genuine;..... To make a likeness or resemblance of any thing with a view to defraud. A poor counterfeit is worse than what one would term a “genuine imitation,” a hilarious term I heard used to describe a vendor’s imitation handbags. His merchandise looked almost exactly like an original. Here this citation is saying what our mortal sense shows us are poor counterfeits, thus if alert, in our right Mind, we ought to quickly detect the deception of the mortal view of things, including man and refuse to buy it. As I learned from this Church: **Don’t Buy It.**

This makes sense and it is helpful since matter can never in any way be the resemblance of anything spiritual. A poor counterfeit, not close in anyway whatsoever. A wonderful way for us to tear off error’s disguise and see its unreality!! *****

Heareth My Word

“I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life,” John 5:24

“The grass beneath our feet silently exclaims, ‘The meek shall inherit the earth.’ ... Man, made in His likeness, possesses and reflects God’s dominion over all the earth.” *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy p. 516

Carpenter writes in the book *Spiritual Footsteps* in chapter 57, “When the Master said, “I can of mine own self do nothing,” he implied that he had no substitute human acumen or sagacity. All that he knew, all the mental powers he had, came through inspiration and reflection. Therefore, the moment he lost his inspiration, he lost his knowledge. Hence, we might modernize his above statement thus, “The only thing I can give out, is what I get from God. When I have not that, I have nothing to give.”

Jesus came to teach us about God and our relationship to Him. I realized that in the past I wasn't really trying to get to know God much less praise Him and work for Him. I was just trying to fix my problems and have a smooth mortal existence. The Bible Study and Roundtable this last weekend gave us deep lessons on what it takes to have true healing and peace. The story of Jesus having supper with Simon the Pharisee shows us what is needed. Mary Magdalene showed her reverence through repentance, humility, gratitude, open to understand God. Simon the Pharisee was blind to his self righteousness and barrenness which had no room for knowing God. Mrs. Eddy covers this story in at least the first 8 pages of her chapter, “Christian Science Practice” showing this great need to be like Magdalene before any healing can take place. The Roundtable exposed the many errors of thinking that would impede the only true getting and basis of giving which is from God. ***

Replenishing and Subduing the Earth

4. Genesis 1

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

During the Roundtable this past weekend (April 29th, 2018), It was quoted from Bicknell Young: **“Earth is our mortal concept of heaven. Heaven**

is our real awareness of the earth; in other words, HEAVEN IS THE EARTH CORRECTLY UNDERSTOOD.”

In the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, the definition of “subdue” includes this statement:

Subduing implies conquest or vanquishing, but it implies also more permanence of subjection to the conquering power, than either of these words.

All this has been giving me the understanding that I must work daily to replenish the right sense of earth – the spiritual sense of it – and subdue the wrong sense of earth – the material sense – within myself. Only through that constant work can I hope to achieve a “permanence of subjection” leading me to the dominion mentioned in the second part of the sentence, which also takes on a new meaning with the correct, spiritual understanding of earth as heaven. No longer is my story “Man vs. Nature” or “Man vs. Man” but simply Truth versus error, and real versus unreal, and I the beneficiary of God's wonderful, beautiful and logical creation.*****

Put On the Undivided Garment

“[P]ut off ... the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. ... [P]ut on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:22,24).

Growth in Christian Science involves my putting off sense and putting on Soul: putting off the animal and putting on the spiritual. This week's lesson underscores this requirement, quoting the last words of Moses, exhorting the people to put off death and put on life.

Genesis speaks of “the old man”, the old Adam, as clothed in animal skin (3:21), in other words, governed by material senses. The Book of Revelation speaks of putting on “the new man” as a bride puts on a wedding garment that contains not a single fiber of animal origin whatsoever: “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine

linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints” (Rev. 19:7-8). This is the spiritual meaning of Deuteronomy 22:11 – “Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woolen and linen together.”

“We must seek the undivided garment, the whole Christ, as our first proof of Christianity, for Christ, Truth, alone can furnish us with absolute evidence” (*Science and Health*, p142:7). *****

SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals – May 13th, 2018

Nicodemus

In this Lesson on MORTALS AND IMMORTALS, we have the account of Nicodemus, a Pharisee and scholar, coming to Jesus by night (John 3:1-12), seeking truth. He felt that Jesus came from God, because of the miracles that he did.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:6)

“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7)

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

Definition: “WIND. That which indicates the might of omnipotence and the movements of God’s spiritual government, encompassing all things. ...” (*Science and Health*, 597:27)

When Nicodemus didn’t understand these things, Jesus said, “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?”

It was said that Nicodemus was Jerusalem’s most outstanding Bible teacher; he knew about God, but he didn’t know God.

“We enter the kingdom by recognizing who Jesus is — the Son of God, and ‘look’ to him in faith.”

“The Master Evangelist [Jesus] had done his work. He had brought a Bible teacher into the kingdom of God!” (from reformation21.org) *****

Giving God's Word a Voice

“Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.” (Psalm 103:20).

Giving voice to God’s word means not simply spending time with it during my time of private prayer, then forgetting about it until the next private prayer session. It means keeping the word alive within me, letting it speak to me throughout the day, as much as is practically possible.

In the allegory of the Trial (*Science and Health*, 430-442), it is noticeable that the patient, at first, is not giving voice to God’s word at all. In fact, he is doing the opposite, allowing himself to give voice to the words of his accuser. Instead of using the sword of the Spirit, the Word, to silence his accusers, they multiply. The patient, without objection, actually invites them to take the floor and completely dominate the courtroom proceedings. Throughout this time of toxic self-talk, the Word is given no voice whatsoever, and, predictably, the patient’s suffering increases until the voice of the death-sentence croaks triumphantly at last in the Wordless courtroom. For me, the wisdom of this lesson cries out: how much trouble could this patient have avoided had he simply disciplined himself to give voice to the Word of God during his time of trial!

After 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus did not waste an instant of time listening to satan. Instead, Jesus immediately gave voice to the scriptures that, only a moment before, he held within himself like a sheathed sword.

The allegory of the trial ends happily as the patient unsheathes the sword of God's Word, gives voice to the mighty promises from that book of the Law which is weightier than Blackstone: the Bible (*Science and Health*, p 437). In understanding the Law's opinion of himself, with the help of his advocate, Christian Science, the patient at last triumphs over death.

In time of need, giving voice (spoken or unspoken) to the Word means allowing it to remain alive within me instead of letting it lie dormant, that is, allowing myself to remain unconscious of it. This awareness, this abiding consciousness of the Word, not only drives off error, but it attracts and multiplies angel-thoughts around me, which will also minister to me as they ministered to Jesus, preparing him for the next level of service.***

A Mystery

7. I Corinthians 15

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

6. 296

Progress is born of experience. It is the ripening of mortal man, through which the mortal is dropped for the immortal. Either here or hereafter, suffering or Science must destroy all illusions regarding life and mind, and regenerate material sense and self.

What a blessing to have that old theology that I was raised in be put to rest by the logic of Christian Science. No more cognitive dissonance brought on by simultaneously believing that Jesus died to take away our sins, and also that I am perpetually a sinner – that left me caught between a feeling of “I can do what I want” and “there is nothing I can do.” Not exactly a recipe for a useful life.

To instead be learning these many important things, such as: I can put off that old man, without dying out of it; I can and must work out my own salvation, and it is both possible and clearly

marked by Christ Jesus' teachings and Mrs. Eddy's revelation; Suffering is not strictly a requirement! Science can guide me through, if I listen and obey.

The “mystery” of this becomes, at each passing stage, “How did I miss these truths on my own?!” I suppose I needed the experience, so I could make this progress. I am constantly astounded how logical, practical, and comforting Christian Science is, and grateful that this church is working so tirelessly to bring it to the world. Thank you!

Living a Moral Life

“Custom, education, and fashion form the transient standards of mortals. Immortality, exempt from age or decay, has a glory of its own, — the radiance of Soul.” (*Science and Health*, p.247:12-15)

How true it is that today's moral standards seem relative to the whims and changing attitudes of the so called rule makers of the day. But moral and spiritual laws given by Christ Jesus are unchangeable because they are of divine origin based on Truth; God, the Principle of all good. Moral and spiritual laws are not relative but reliable. We lean on these laws for our health and are the basis of a happy life.

I am so grateful to Mary Baker Eddy and giving us the gift of Christian Science. I love the following from Miscellaneous Writings which, to me, describes what real life is all about:

“The spiritual sense of Life and its grand pursuits is of itself a bliss, health-giving and joy-inspiring. This sense of Life illumines our pathway with the radiance of divine Love; heals man spontaneously, morally and physically, — exhaling the aroma of Jesus' own words, ‘Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’” (Miscellaneous Writings by Mary Baker Eddy, “The New Birth” p.19-20:31-5)